Governors' Report
29 March 2021

Covid

We continue to maintain an attendance of 90%. I worry that we will never return to our strong attendance rates before Covid. Culture is powerful and in the inner city is very hard to establish a culture of regular attendance. Our efforts have been thwarted by Covid.

We continue to bubble the children according to classes and we send home a class if the class tests positive with a PCR test.

We implemented the lateral flow tests when we returned on March 8th as directed. Teachers did a very good job of this. We have since sent home the Covid testing home kits which children have used to test themselves at home. We currently have one class out of the school because a child tested positive on a PCR test. Sadly, this is one of our year 11 classes.

Pupil Progress

As mentioned before, the time away from school for the children is a great worry. They have all fallen behind in a big way. Teachers are of course doing their best to use the time we have efficiently.

Our year 12s are a particular worry, having not done GCSE exams and having again missed out on so much classroom learning this last term. The zoom lessons and google classroom work over lockdown was implemented well but as governors know, this is not a substitute for in-house learning.

Teachers will continue to work hard to get the children back to their normal habits of working hard and being driven.

Sixth Form

Over 70% of the Sixth Form have offers to attend Russell Group universities and 2 of the pupils have gained an offer for Cambridge. One of those pupils also has an offer from Berkeley University in California and is waiting to hear from other American universities.

Staffing

Some staff have found being away from school very unsettling, in particular joiners from 2019 who haven't really had the chance to embed at the school. The worry is that having not been in school, it has been

impossible to train staff in the usual way. So there is a lot a work to do to get the staff body as a whole to where they need to be before September.